

LATHYRUS NISSOLIA, A RECENT INTRODUCTION IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:—Early in May I observed on the Western slope of the dry hillside leading to the campus of the State College of Washington, Pullman, what appeared to be a grass, different from that commonly grown in this section. The shade of green was distinctly more vivid than that of the other plants by which it was surrounded. Several times during the month of May this spot was visited and attention was attracted to the rapid and very vigorous growth which this little plant was making. On June 6th, 1921, the first brilliant, crimson, papilionaceous flowers appeared and at the end of three weeks the plants were blooming in great profusion. In this new garb the grass-like appearance of the plant was altered by the bright flowers which showed it to be a member of the *Leguminosae*.

A single plant carelessly removed from the very shallow soil, where it was growing so well, revealed thickly noded rootlets. In the immediate vicinity there was growing very sparsely *Lathyrus Sandbergii* Howell. This was also in flower. The resemblance between the two was so great that the attempt was made to identify the former by aid of Piper and Beattie's Flora of Southeastern Washington and Adjacent Idaho, as a member of the same genus. No description in this flora covered this legume. The specimen was then given to Dr. Harold St. John, Professor of Botany in the State College of Washington, who identified it as *Lathyrus Nissolia* L.

An effort to account for the presence of this little pea growing in Pullman has resulted in failure. There is no record of this species ever having been planted here and a search through the literature fails to reveal any record of its introduction in North America. Pressed specimens have been placed in the herbarium of the State College of Washington and the Gray Herbarium, Cambridge, Mass.—CHARLES S. PARKER, Pullman, Washington.

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